(b) whether it is a fact that the facilities like special ramps, elevators etc., are provided for them in United States; and

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal with Government to adopt some of these welfare measures in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has no specific information regarding non-usage of term 'Handicap' in United States and details of the facilities provided for persons with disabilities in United States.

(c) (i) The Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 provides for both preventive and promotional aspects of rehabilitation like education, employment and vocational training, job reservation, research and manpower development, creation of barrier-free environment, rehabilitation for persons with disability, establishment of homes for persons with severe disability, redressal mechanism, etc. The Act already provides for creation of barrier free infrastructure in transport sector, roads and public buildings by the appropriate government within the limits of their economic capacity and development.

(ii) Action to create barrier free facilities for persons with disabilities in public building, on roads and in transport has been initiated by various authorities in Central Government. The Urban Development Ministry has prepared Model Building Blaws and guidelines for construction of barrier free buildings and circulated the same to all States/UTs for adoption. While old buildings are being modified to facilitate access to persons with disabilities, instructions have been issued to Central Public Works Department (CPWD) and other agencies to incorporate barrier free features in the designs for new buildings The efforts of making public buildings barrier-free is a continuous process and progress depends on the resources available.

Criteria for categorisation of persons below poverty line

†3989. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria fixed for including any family or person in the below poverty line category in the country;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the assessment is made on annual basis; and

(c) whether the population in the category of below poverty line is increasing or declining annually, along with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) At the behest of Ministry of Rural Development, the State Governments conduct the Below Poverty Line (BPL) census at the beginning of each Five Year Plan period. The Census covers all the families in the villages and the objective is to identify the families below the poverty line. Multiple Criteria, comprising of household occupation, housing condition, number of earners, asset position (Land operated/owned, number of livestock owned, consumer durable used etc.) were used for identification of the BPL families during the 9th Five Year Plan. Further Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation for identifying BPL families is using the State-specific poverty lines and seven non economic parameters-living conditions comprising parameters of (i) roof; (ii) floor; (iii) water; (iv) sanitation; (v) educational level; (vi) type of employment and (vii) status of children in a house. In addition, the Planning Commission estimates the state-specific poverty lines and distribution of persons by expenditure groups obtained from the National Sample Survey (NSS) data on consumer expenditure.

(b) No Sir.

(c) The populations in the category of below poverty line for rural and urban areas has declined from 37.30 percent and 32.40 percent respectively in 1993-94 to 27.10 percent and 23.60 percent respectively in 1999-2000.

Revision of OBC list

3990. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to expand OBC list;

(b) if so, the details of communities that are likely to be included in the list;

(c) whether Government also propose to increase the ceiling limit for determining the creamy layer; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE